

THIS MONTH WE SALUTE  
"RA" AND W4ETO  
OF SEMINOLE, FLA.  
(See story below)

# FLORIDA SKIP

Vol. 13 No. 4

THE ALL-FLORIDA RADIO AMATEUR'S PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER 1969

Price 20c

## Claimed Field Day Scores

### Single transmitter:

W4JJ/4 - Panama City ARC -  
3,430 pts.

W4OZF/4 - Indian Key - 5,715  
pts.  
Beaches ARS - Jacksonville -  
3,576 pts.

W4BRB/4 - Lake Worth - 4,816  
pts.

K4KE/4 - Coquina Key - 4,204  
pts.

W4LX/4 - Ft. Myers ARC -  
3,006 pts.

K4BV/4 - Daytona Beach ARS -  
3,402 pts.

### Multi-transmitter:

W4FZ/4 - North Florida ARS -  
13,900 pts.

WB4LRY/4 - Dade County AR-  
PSC - 10,401 pts.

W4FRO/4 - Platinum Coast ARS -  
9,688 pts.

K4KQ/4 - Dade RC - 7,338 pts.

K4JVA/d - South Miami RC -  
5,096 pts.

W4NLX/4 - Indian River ARC -  
Rockledge - 4,680 pts.

WB4ICJ/4 - Space Center ARS -  
3,758 pts.

W4NN/4 - Eglin ARC - 3,203  
pts.

W4VMT/4 - Biscayne ARC (Mi-  
ami) - 2,922 pts.

WB4KBC/4 - Jesuit ARC (Tam-  
pa) - 1,905 pts.

We are still waiting for  
scores from the following: W4  
AB/4, W4AJV/4, W4DVO/4, W-  
4IH, W4OFS/4, and W6NN/4.

## HAMFEST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

The annual Hamfest for the  
Washington, D.C., metropolitan  
area, sponsored by the Founda-  
tion For Amateur Radio, will  
be held at the Gaithersburg  
Fairgrounds in nearby Faith-  
ersburg, Maryland, on Sunday  
the 21st of September from  
1000 until 1700 hours.



RICHARD W. EHRHORN, W4ETO, talks with Expedition Ra from his radio station in Seminole, Fla. Ehrhorn is general manager of the Signal/One Division of Electronic Communications, Inc. (See story below.)

## Attention... All EC's

All E. and W. Florida ECs  
are urged to report into the  
weekly session of the Florida  
Sideband Emergency Net, Wed-  
nesday at 7:30 PM on 3940kc.  
Shortly after the business of  
the FSBEN we will begin the  
EC/LO net. W4SMK and/or W4-  
IYT will be on hand to answer  
AREC questions and our new  
SCM will handle all other mat-  
ters. Mark it down - Wed.  
7:30 PM on 3940kc.

## 'Ra-'Ra' For Ham Radio!

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. --  
Amateur radio has a starring  
role in one of history's great  
dramas as Thor Heyerdahl and  
a crew of six make their west-  
ward way across a turbulent  
Atlantic in a vessel made of  
papyrus reed and fashioned to  
duplicate the craft of ancient  
Egypt.

Heyerdahl, who gained world  
fame with the voyage of Kon-  
Tiki in 1947, is nearing the  
West Indies on a voyage de-

signed to support his belief that  
Egyptians once drifted across  
the ocean on their basket-like  
papyrus reed rafts. This, he  
theorizes would explain the  
startling similarities between  
the cultures of ancient Egypt  
and Mexico. His craft is named  
Ra, after the Egyptian sun-god.

Since Ra's departure from  
Safi, Morocco, on May 25, ama-  
teur radio has been the link be-  
tween Ra and the world. It has

(Continued on Page 16)

**FLORIDA SKIP, INC.**

P.O. Box 501

Miami Springs, Florida 33166

Enclosed is \$2.00 for 1 year or \$5.00 for 3 years  
for my membership to Florida Skip.☐ New ☐ Renewal

My CORRECT address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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P.O. Box 501 - Miami Springs, Fla. 33166

Member of A.R.N.S.

BUSINESS MGR. - Betty Clark, W4GGQ

ADVERTISING MGR. - Frank Orcutt, W4JO

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Any item in FLORIDA SKIP may be reprinted in any other amateur radio publication in the world with a credit line EXCEPT CARTOONS by WIGSI/4. Written permission from the editor must be obtained before reprinting the cartoons.

-Editor

Dear Mabel XYI Award, c/o Skip, Box 501, Miami Springs, Fla.

**FLORIDA SKIP  
CORRESPONDENTS**

ONYX, MABEL, THE OLD TIMER  
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Miami Springs 33166

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O.C.W.A. SE Chapter, W4JO  
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W. Fla., W4RKH, FL Walton Beh.

FLORIDORA, WA4YNX, Brandon

Orlando ARC, W4BKC, Orlando

DBARA, WA4OCX, Davids Beh.

Platinum Coast ARS, WN4FVA,

Melbourne

GULFSTREAM SOCIETY of A.R.

OPS WB4AID, Lake Worth

FMRC, W4SMK, Ft. Myers

Suncoast Flying Rptr., W4BAY,

Sarasota

Indian River ARC, W4EWB, Cocoa

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5 Flags ARA, K4LAN, Pensacola

**- DEADLINE -**

DON'T FORGET THE

10th IS OUR DEADLINE

FOR ALL ADS. COPY.

HAMBARS

**EX-CALLS**

This column is open to all amateurs. Have you sent in your EX-CALLS? Editor.

W4DLD ex W1RSC

W4ROS ex W0MIX

WB4KDJ ex W4IAFP

W1OH ex INQ

WN4NNR ex WN4GBT, K4GBT

W4BM ex W4HAD

WB4NHH ex W5CMN

K4UBR ex W15QS, BV1US, W-

3WLU, K2CLA, opr KJ6FAA

W4LI ex W5DMS, W4LZM, W4-

EYQ

JOIN

**Letters To Editor**

Dear CM:

I have organized the Rag Chewers Net which will operate on 50.4 Mc, each evening at 0100 GMT. We have no net control as this is strictly for a rag chew session. Most members of the net, including myself, are members of the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club which operates on the same frequency at 2400 GMT. Hams are invited to contact either net/Rag Chewers every night and GCARC on Thursday night.

At present the members of the Rag Chewers are:

W4VCT - A. Edw. Torpening (TERRY).

K4BCL - Larry Nomard.

K4INA - Albert Zelleffrow (AL).

WN4CRV - Thomas Burton (TOM).

W4WDQ - Maurice Peters (PETE).

Anyone is welcome to break into the net when we are on.

73,

A. Edw. Torpening, W4VCT

Member: AMSAT, ARRL, GCARC.

Enclosed please find two personal checks for the total sum of Six (\$6) Dollars for 4 club members subscriptions to Florida Skip.

A poll of the Playground ARS members revealed that we already have well over 50% of our members receiving the Skip and with these subscriptions we are at 72% subscribed. I will make another poll next meeting and enroll those members that were unsure of their subscription status. I trust that we shall soon approach 100% both in Skip and ARRL members.

Thank you for your help and running the club news. It has given our club a big push. I think that we shall have a great increase in Western Florida activity now.

What's with another Florida 10 meter QSO party. The F.A.R.C. will assist as needed to score, advertise, promote or what have you - anything to get more ten meter activity before we lose that band like "Ole 11".

73

Jerry Green, K4URW

P.A.R.C. President

I am not much of a letter writer as a requires thinking, and thinking is work and I'm against work. I just wanted to share the Father's Day card I received from my son, quote:

CQ... CQ... CQ...

All over the land

For Father's Day

is now at hand.

So tune up your sets

and hear what I say.

This dad is the greatest

you'll find any day.

You can search the world over

and look all around

but a nicer father

can never be found.

Now that we've said it,

We'll tell you who

This man of such honor

he's WA4 - EQQ.

As Red Skelton would say, "I'm proud of that". But, I think my son

may have exaggerated just a little. HL  
73,

Red Love, WA4EQQ

1710 Belle Vue Way

Tallahassee

Dear Mr. Clark:

Upon returning yesterday from leave and the Directors' conference in Des Moines, I found nearly everything ship-shape in my office, however in going through my mail I noticed one very deep void. The June "Florida Skip" was not there.

You might be interested in knowing that the next annual Sixth Navy-Marine Corps MARS conference is scheduled to be held in Orlando, Florida. I have not set a date as yet, but expect it will be soon after the first of the year, 1970.

By the way, I do not know what arrangements have been made as to subscription from this office, but if you will let me know when renewal is due I want to assure that I continue to receive your excellent magazine.

Best personal regards,

E. F. Lealty

Dir. 6th Navy MARS Dist,

Charleston, S.C.

Thank you for running my ads. Within a few days after your July issue was received I had sold all my excess radio gear, except for the auxiliary generator which I have decided to keep. I continue to get many inquiries, one came from Iowa.

You have a fine paper, and you are rendering a valuable service to Florida Hams.

Clyde L. Wilson, M.D.

WB4TTP, Largo, Fla.

**FCC EXAMS**

After calling the New Orleans F.C.C. Office, I learned that an applicant for the General Class License that does not pass the 13 word per minute code test may, prior to leaving the examination room, ask the examiner to take the supervised Technician Test.

The examiner will then check to see if the applicant's code copy was sufficient for the Technician Test (5 words per minute) on the 13 word per minute test just completed. He will not give another code test. Then, if you met the 5 word per minute requirement, for taking the Technician Written Test, he will give the written test. Upon passing the written test, then you will only have to pass the code portion of the General Test and will get credit for the theory test.

Of course, you will have to wait the usual 30 days before taking another examination which is in accordance to the F.C.C. regulations.

(North Little Rock

A.R.C. Bulletin)



# PLATINUM COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HAMFEST

4th

SEPTEMBER 13, 1969

MELBOURNE CIVIC AUDITORIUM / MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

*Main Door Prize*  
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DISPLAYS
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- EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS

## MEETINGS

- Q.C.W.A.  
CENTRAL FLORIDA  
ANNUAL MEETING
- MARS
- FLA. OR. CLUB
- FLORIDORAS

## S.E. REPEATER ASSN. BANQUET

### SATURDAY NIGHT

will be at the Great Western Motel, U.S. 1, Melbourne. Advance tickets available at \$4.50 per person from ED at address given above or at the Hamfest for \$5.00 per person. The banquet will start at 7 or 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Mike Vanderbraten of FM magazine. Banquet will be over in time for the dance.

### TICKETS:

ED, W4CYE direct or via  
P.O. Box 82  
Palm Bay, Florida

## DANCE

### SATURDAY NIGHT

All welcome. 9 p.m. until? \$1.50 per person. Tickets available at Hamfest. Good dancing music. Bring your own bottle. Setups available.

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

All major motel chains represented. Make reservations direct through your local motel or by telephone.

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION:

P.C.A.R.S.  
P.O. Box 1004  
Melbourne, Fla. 32901

## Jax Ham Club Builds Unique Mobile ATV/Radio Disaster Unit

Jacksonville's NOFARS (W4IZ) has always considered itself a club on the go, but as a result of some backroom whispering during a club meeting one night NOFARS is now on the go with wheels.

Many clubs across the country have refurbished trucks and vans of one sort or another into communication centers for AREC, RACES or other uses, but the North Florida group took it one step further and added amateur television. And, when the entire project was completed, gave the truck away.

More than a year ago a local dairy made available to NOFARS one of its older milk trucks. The club could have it if it would just cart it away from the company parking lot. No sooner said than done. Already visions of a fine mobile center were dancing in the minds of several NOFARS members, but a lot of work lay ahead.

Led by an expert truck-body man, John Anderson, W4GCM, there were weeks of stripping out insulation, re-paneling the interior, laying flooring and adding such things as a per-

manently installed swing-up 50-foot mast, 3-KW gasoline generator and four operating positions.

Duval County Civil Defense officials informed us they had access to a large quantity of ham radio equipment that they were unable to use and would make it available to the truck and club station projects provided we saw to it that we and they were RACES prepared. No sooner said than done.

Early this year NOFARS' ATV buffs dazzled the club with a two-way televised club meeting — audio, video and video tape. While the show was underway, someone in the back of the room said: "Hey, wouldn't it be something if we had ATV in the truck." No sooner said than done. (Well, maybe not quite that fast.)

After talking with CD officials about our concept of disaster TV communications they, too, began congering up all kinds of visions of what a flexible mobile TV unit could do as far as giving field reports to their Emergency Operations Center. The CD chiefs wanted to know if we could give them a demonstration and if successful, CD would help monetarily in the construction of a permanent TV installation for the truck. Our response was: "Let us finish with Field Day and you're on."

Following a successful Field Day in which the truck was thoroughly wrung out, a band of ATV'ers headed by Jerry Andersen, W4IQT, went to work installing the 432-mHz television station and readying the mobile unit for an early July Civil Defense Seminar. The hams requisitioned parts and sub-units from their own stations until they had a completed unit.

On the day of the seminar



JERRY ANDERSEN, W4IQT, Jacksonville, takes a sitting of ATV camera that feeds permanent 432 mHz television equipment aboard NOFARS communications truck. The mobile center is a handcrafted, refurbished milk truck turned into an AREC, RACES, CD and general ham-station-on-wheels. Club ATV'ers recently demonstrated value of disaster scene TV coverage to provide public safety officials with instant field reports.

Jerry, John, as well as Dave Allen, WB4IAG and Ed Renna, WA4JKY, drove the truck into the sand dunes behind one of the city's large eastside shopping centers and fed video and audio back to a downtown meeting room where Bill Walling, W4NKC and Paul Stowe, WA4JHY fidgeted with monitors before the assembled, august body. It didn't take long for those attending to see what ATV could do for them in time of emergency.

The communications center on wheels has two SSB/CW stations — SR-150 and an HT-44/SX-117 combination, 2-meter a.m., 8-meter a.m., 2-meter f.m. (the only unit capable of operating in motion) as well as CD VHF equipment and police and fire radio monitors.

Now that we've proven our point, we've given our truck away!

NOFARS made a gift of the truck to the City of Jacksonville with the stipulation that we will have access to it for public service projects of the club as well as Field Day, etc. The City in turn will maintain the truck (and put a license tag on it,

etc.) The unit now sits ready to roll at a strategic fire station when the need arises.

The ATV'ers meanwhile are constructing a custom TV installation for the truck with the help of CD money and government surplus and soon all will be ready for any emergency... and so will NOFARS.

73, Howard Kelley K4DSN

### FM ASSN. PICNIC

The NW Florida FM Assn. is having a picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7th, starting at noon at the Wayside Park on U. S. Highway 98, approximately 6 miles east of Destin, Florida. Bring your own lunch and gear to be swapped.

Monitor on 146.94 mc. A contest for the best 450 mc. antenna will be held. C U there. W4RKH, Ft. Walton Beach

### Silent Keys

We are very sorry to report the passing of the following Florida amateurs.

W4GDT — George Sizemore, Cape Coral  
WB4KMN — Kelvin J. Schneider, Rockledge  
WA4VJQ — Fred Hilliard, St. Petersburg  
W9ACE/4 — Melvin Baer, Miami Shores  
WA4BAW — James Hudson, Opa Locka  
W4Bl — Windard Brown, South Miami  
W4YX — Horace D. Butterworth, Miami  
W4ANP — Don Meeker, Homestead

### E-Z WAY TOWERS

Enjoy the convenience and safety of the genuine original E-Z Way Crankup Tiltover Tower! The tower is easily raised, retracted, set at any height by one man... and tilts to horizontal position. More are in use than any other kind... write and find out why!

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NEAREST DEALER, WRITE

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TAMPA, FLORIDA 33612

## A lot of people think hams just fool around with radios.

Suddenly, your "fooling around" is frequently the only way of transmitting messages of help and hope. Of course, you didn't become a ham just to help out in a disaster. You became a ham because you just wanted to be a ham. But you've made your hobby an invaluable public service. And FPL is grateful. We remember. A lot of people thought Edison was just fooling around with electricity, too.





## MIKE VAN DEN BRANDEN TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT FM BANQUET

The Brevard Repeater Association will sponsor a smorgasbord banquet at the Great Western Motel in Melbourne, September 13, following the Platinum Coast ARS Hamfest.

This new group of amateurs has been very active on 2 meter FM in Brevard County since January, 1969. The group sponsored the repeater station at the Orlando Hamfest in April. The transmitter logged over three hours of air time with over 100 different call signs logged on tapes during this thirty-three hours it was active.

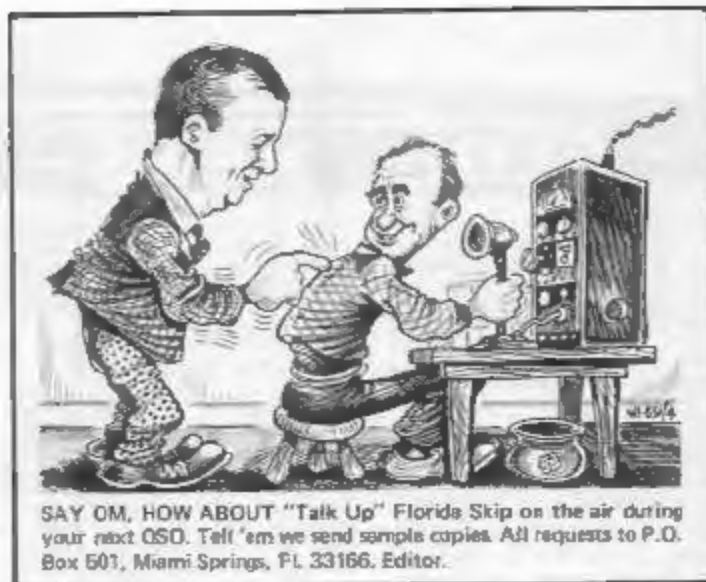
At their June meeting, it was decided to participate in the Melbourne Hamfest on Sept. 13. They will sponsor a booth, as well as a banquet for FMs and others interested. The guest speaker will be Mike Van Den Branden, publisher of FM magazine. Mike has invited the entire FM staff to attend.

Tickets in advance are \$4.50 each or \$5.00 at the Hamfest. The banquet will be limited to 110 persons. Wives are invited. Reserve seats now from Mark Manney, W4FJE, 590 Sabal Road, Melbourne, Florida, 32901. Send check or money order. Money will be returned if you cannot attend.

A discussion will be held, and pictures and slides showing other Florida Repeaters will be shown.

The Platinum Coast ARS will hold a dance at 9 PM Saturday. See the advertisement in Skip.

On Sunday, the Brevard Repeater Association will also



SAY OM, HOW ABOUT "Talk Up" Florida Skip on the air during your next QSO. Tell 'em we send sample copies. All requests to P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33166, Editor.

sponsor a VHF "dutch treat" picnic and "bunny hunt" on .94, so bring your D-F equipment and food! This won't begin until 2 PM, to allow plenty of time for those who would like to take the bus tour or the free drive-thru tour of the Space Center. Please remember - no hamming while on Cape Kennedy!

The ladies and children will enjoy Brevard's Wickham Park, while the fellows hunt the hidden transmitter on .94 FM (vertical polarization).

The Brevard repeater will be on the air, .34 in - .76 out. WB4KNQ people will be on the air for talk-in at the Hamfest and VHF picnic on Sunday. We will direct you to the Space Center as well.

The Southeastern Repeater Association will meet during the Hamfest, at 2 PM Saturday.

There will be a separate FM

## SCM NOMINATIONS

This will be your last call for nominations for SCM in Western and Eastern Florida ARRL Sections. At this writing SKIP knows of only two nominations: W4KGI for E. Fla. and W4RKH for W. Fla. See page 101, August QST for the Election Notice and proper form to submit a nomination. Don't delay - do it today.

## PUT ZIP in your mail

Include  
ZIP CODE NUMBERS  
ON ALL ADDRESSES

swap table, so bring your goodies.

For more information, catch us on 2 meter FM, or on 3940-45- SSB.



By -Jim Wilson  
N6WCK - W4GDK

It has just been announced that the next 6th Naval District Navy/Marine Corps MARS Conference is to be held in late November in Orlando. Jim Levy N6GAJ will be the host Area Coordinator.

Our District Director Chief Gene Leafly has just returned from a trip to Puerto Rico where the MARS activity is in the jurisdiction of the 6th Naval District.

Mrs. Georgia Denman N6ZTC of Orlando is supervisory head of all of our District nets. In charge of the SSB net on 6970 kHz is N6HGM of Charleston, S.C. and the new head of the RTTY net is N6JRT of Birmingham, Ala.

We have a new ALL FLORIDA CW net on 7380 kHz. It meets at 7 PM EDT, Tues., Thurs. and Saturday. The first 30 minutes cover a CW training net, followed by 30 minutes devoted to traffic handling. Net control stations promise they will adjust to the speed of each participant.

## Sept. Specials at... THE NEW HAM SHACK at Tel-Appliance in Sarasota



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NC-300 Dream receiver, excellent	125.
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New Galaxy GT-550, National NCX-500, Drake  
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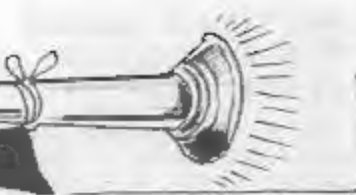
## THE HAM SHACK

at Tel-Appliance Center, Inc.

1966 Hillview Street, Sarasota, Fla. 33579  
Ansel E. Gridley, W4GJO Telephone: (813) 955-7161



## CLUB NEWS



### FLA. SIDEBANDERS' ASSN. By Ted Champagne, WB4FLW

Boy, that month went fast! But it's true, there have been four FSBA meetings since I last took typewriter to paper to tell you all how we are doing.

Something extremely important and disquieting has come up, I have been

informed by some of our better traffic handlers that they will not check into the Florida Amateur Sideband Traffic Net (FAST net) because they have gotten the impression somehow that to handle traffic or to even check into the net, one must be a paid-up member of the Florida Sidebanders' Association. We want to make it clear that this is definitely NOT TRUE! You do NOT have to be an FSBA member to check into the FAST Net. If anyone has been told by an NCS that he couldn't QNI because of nonmembership, we humbly apologize, and invite you to again try our net on for size. It meets Sunday thru Friday at 3300 GMT or 7 PM EDT, on 3540 Mc. By the way, you don't have to be a member to be put on the roll call, either, so manager WA4NBE will be looking forward to your radiogram.

Al, WA4RGO, has been appointed First Vice-President by our great esteemed president WB4EPD. He will fill out the unexpired term of WA4TWE, who resigned last month. WA4NBE and WA4OCY have given two enjoyable and enlightening programs this month. Cass gave a program about camping and camp equipment, and Bart discussed seeing-eye dogs for the blind.

Roy Carter, WA4EFF, of Riviera Beach, has just been installed as member number 319 of the Association. Roy is a junior high school band director, and wants to remain so, but the Palm Beach County School Board is giving him "QRS" - they want to promote him!

Tick, WB4HVE of Stuart, and K4ASP, Lou are in the process of becoming FSBA members. We welcome you, too, to come to 3540 kHz/kc at

3200 GMT Sundays for the Florida Sidebanders' Association. We are a fraternal organization and invite all sidebanders to join.

73, Ted, WB4FLW

### FLA. VHF SIDEBANDERS

By R. D. Hinton - K4LFF

Where are all the 2 meter operators? I know I don't have the worlds best rig and antenna, but it is about 50 feet up at the present (still hoping to get the one hooked up at 200 feet), and I have not heard the first thing in about a month or better. How about some of you fellows in or around Jacksonville listening up this way? Write me for a schedule, and while at it, put in some news of what is happening VHF wise. Either every one is broke and can't afford stamps.

Just got the Bulletin from ARNS this week and was real pleased to learn of new members in England, Alaska and Australia. If you are planning on joining a Amateur Radio News Organization this is the only one. Just contact WA4D at Eas Gallie for further details.

Had a letter from K9LSB and things seem to be rather quiet up there too. Still no word from Leo - WA4MRS as to whether he got conformation on his CW contact with ZK1AA on Cook Island.

Noticed in QST there was no mention of anyone even working the island, but Leo sure done it.

One of the "die hard" AM boys is finally planning on going SSB. That's what Jack - W6MWW told me last week. Not much else from the far north east this time, so will close, hoping that if the Jax boys can't hear me on 2, maybe WA4TWH - Dave will buzz the tower so I can turn the rig on and if I can't get that far, I can just holler at him, and with NO teeth either.

### TALLAHASSEE ARC

By Jim Rozelle

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Club held a reorganization meeting on July 6, 1965 in Tallahassee. This was the first meeting in some months and was for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year and to consider rewriting the constitution. The reorganization was spearheaded by Cuyler; W4MDQ EC for Leon County. As a "reward" for his efforts he was promptly elected Proxy for the coming year. Rudy WB4AWU is the Vice President and Jim WB4GTV, is Secretary-Treasurer.

Notification of the meeting was sent to every active ham in the Tallahassee area courtesy of John, WB4LOQ, who read the Call Book and extracted the names and addresses. Twenty-two hams attended with one visitor, WA4EZM, Gene, from Pensacola.

Much of the meeting was spent in reviewing old acquaintances and discussing the constitution. The Constitution Revision Committee was appointed with Bud, WA4EQQ as chairman, Bill, WA4TPO, John, WB4LOQ and Ken, WB4CAW as members.

The next meeting will be held at

the Industrial Arts Lab at FSU. All hams in the area are invited to visit with us.

### FLORIDORA NEWS

By Alna Burton WA4YXX

K4RSC - Meg killed a huge snake who seemed to be arguing with her about who should own the path - and with one shot! She got to be such a sharpshooter when she hunted with her brothers, and she and Gordon have kept in practice. This was the sixth snake they have killed on their property.

WA4ED - Ruth has received her Floridora certificate and has it hanging on her wall. Ruth checks into the Tuesday morning and Wednesday night net on 40 meters. With so many on vacation, check-ins are small on the latter net, but Floridora's hope to build it up and want to keep in touch with the working gals, especially, on that net.

Congratulations to Dorothea WA4QBY and CM, who celebrated their 12nd wedding anniversary. We wish them many more happy years together.

K4WXS - Lee puts her time to good use - has knit two dresses recently. Her needles clicked away while she watched the moon landing, etc., on TV.

WB4BWH - Marcie was formerly KZ5MM. Her OM was KZ5NN, a boat pilot at the locks of the Panama Canal. They have bought an apartment in Hollywood, which will keep them busy in their "retirement."

K4RNS - Marge has an antenna-raising party and now has a beam and tower up.

When the boat of YV5AAV - Betty and her OM (he was in the Embassy in Venezuela) docked at Port Everglades for several hours, K4RHL - Ellie and Jack met them and brought them to their home for a visit.

### P.C.A.R.S.

By W4VNM

Yes, the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society is still going. It is our hope that from here on out we are going to let the readers of SKIP know what we are doing up here in South Brevard County.

We are a few days late with our field day scores, due to getting these guys up to the moon and vacations.

We were set up at Wickham Park working in the two stations, multioperator class, on emergency power, etc. We had a total of 651 phone contacts and 547 CW contacts using the call of W4FRO/4, thanks to Tracy. Grand total points amounted to 9588.

We think that the PCARS has done a first (for the third year) in infiltrating the ranks of CB'ers. Again this year, August 1, 2, 3, the PCARS was invited to have a booth at the National CB Jamboree here in Melbourne. We had a very enjoyable weekend explaining the facts and story of Ham Radio to these folks.

It is amazing the interest these folks have toward Amateur Radio, and how many are beginning to get irritated with CB Radio and are work-

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ing toward that "Ham Ticket" a little bit.

Well, it's only a little while until our 4th Annual Hamfest, and I am taking this opportunity to invite everyone up to the Melbourne Civic Auditorium on September 13, Saturday only this year and add that we hope you will stay for our dance that evening. Sure hope you can, because we plan to have a ball. (See full page ad). C U then.

John Gaston W4VEM

## SUNCOAST ROVING REPORTER

By Cathy Soehl  
W4BAV/AREA/ARNS

WN4IV - Bob Straughn, Net Mgr. of Novice Hurricane Net, requests everyone to check in with them on 7160 KC, 2,30 PM, Sun., Tues., Thurs., & Sat. Traffic is welcomed and they have passed some priority traffic. They assist the Novices with code speed, give training on handling Net Control, experience in handling traffic, etc. Several are students of the St. Augustine School for the Blind, so when winter comes the Net will operate on Sat. & Sun. Though there are many hams on the air who are sightless, unless you know the person, it is never evident in their operation.

W4EII - General T. J. Conway, who just retired from the Strike Command, at MacDill AFB, is now located at 3401 - 13th Way N.E., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33703. We are happy the General & XYL - Eleanor (an ex-Novice) are staying in the Suncoast area and hope to hear him on the air.

W4LTE - Wayne Cole escorted daughter - Deborah down the aisle of the Central Bible Church, July 26th, to give her in marriage to Russell C. Proffitt. Congrats.

W4MFF - Jack and XYL - Eloise Gray were winded, tired and partied extensively on their 3 week trip to New York State & Ohio, visiting friends and relatives.

W4AVJR - Paul and XYL - Sue Hutz are enjoying their new Zenith color TV.

W4LDC - Basil Bowley was welcomed to the "Hoot Owl" Net recently. Basil lives in Pinellas Park and was ex-VE3CAE until coming to the U.S. about 9 years ago. When his VE license expired, he could not get a license until receiving his citizenship; hence, he was inactive for some time. Hopes son, W4LKN - Scott will take more interest in hamming and upgrade his license.

## SOUTHERN SECTION COUNTRY COUSINS

By Cathy Soehl  
W4BAV/AREA/ARNS

W4THO - Joe and XYL - Maude Gray celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary August 1st. Some other anniversaries noted are: W4DRN - Howard and Kathy McNeely married 8 years Aug. 9th and K4BLM - Stan and XYL - Freddie, 34 years of wedded bliss. Congratulations to all and many, many more.

W4WGS - Wilbur Harrison was happy to have XYL - Carlene home from the hospital.

W4PWB - Walt Westworth in Mount Park Hospital, having suffered a stroke Aug. 2nd. Reported progressing O.K.

W4YVH - Roy Barnes' XYL - Mildred was in the hospital in Orlando, for an operation to relieve a long time facial pain.

K4BLM - Stan and XYL - Freddie Offenbutter made a trip to Cape Kennedy to see the Apollo 11 Moon Shot. On the way home, they had an accident in Vero Beach. After treatment at the Vero Beach hospital, they drove back home, though the car was badly damaged. Stan survived his minor injuries, but XYL under the family doctor's care, taking therapy and doing time.

K4GE - Charlie and XYL - Minna May Lewis, W4GHR - Bill and XYL, W4RAV - Cathy Soehl took a trip to Cleveland, Ga., stopping for an "eye-ball" with W4THO - Joe Gray, W4WGS - Wilbur Harrison, W4WGF - Ed Lynch and K4DN - Julius Dwoan. W4TKA - "Mac" and XYL - Helen MacLean, who have their motorhome parked on their piece of mountainside for the summer, gave us a tour of the Cleveland area. We returned home after a 4-day delightful trip.

HOPE FOR MORE CHEERFUL NEWS NEXT MONTH.

## GULFSTREAM SOCIETY OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

By Al Suhr, W4AID

As announced last month we were in the process of enrolling students for a class in amateur radio theory. We have thirteen aspirant Novices in the class, all earnestly working on the new subjects. This is the Monday night program.

Meanwhile, in the other room, there is some activity in connection with FM Faculty that is being conducted by Vice President Dick Kidder, W4AKH. At the time this is going on, Jim Johnson, is conducting a Special Class for those interested in Extra Class License - Jim, W4BZ, is our Engineer-Trustee / Instructor Wizard, etc. Afterwards, there may be a movie from the ARRL Library. This is one Friday night program.

The largest July attendance in the history of the Society occurred on July 11th. Everyone was present to see the movie, "HAMS WORLD WIDE". We were pleased to have Stan Scallise present - Stan was home from Dallas, Texas for a brief vacation.

We were very pleased that Karl Sturtz, W4LNR, has responded to a letter of invitation by accepting a membership in our Society. Karl is an Innkeeper by profession and a

real avid ham.

John Skymanski, W4EGU, is officially a part of the FM Faculty and is right in there pitching.

Did you know that Frank Piverotto, W4ATBN, is still sending code practice on 21300 kHz at 7 pm Monday through Thursday? Well, he's and has been doing this for about four years.

We are about to say good-bye to Floyd Jones, W4IX5, who is moving to Labelle, Florida.

I have received word from Robert Baird, K4EWO, of St. Augustine, that he is in Paisley, Scotland, visiting friends and family. He has Britishcall GMSAOT and will on 21395 at 3 pm EDT each Sunday until he leaves Southampton on September 4th. So give him a call - the guy is home-sick!

## FIVE FLAGS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC.

By Leo Goldstein - K4LAN

One cannot say that the FFARA is not operating with a flexible frame of mind. The policy of making the gathering of amateurs has taken another turn for improvement. There has been a change of times the Assn. will meet. The only change will be that the FIRST Thursday in the month will be a business meeting and the third, normally a business meeting will be changed to a program meeting. These programs will consist of programs of interest to the membership and of related articles to ham radio. They will be put on by members and will be movies or tech. discussions of any that the programmer, Bob Smith K4FKV, will have. Bob in charge of programs had a movie of much interest and was enjoyed by all.

Along with the program will be the code and theory classes that go on every Monday and Thursday night.

The Assn. is making plans to have a yearly banquet and plans were in the making by both contestants for Vice-President, Bill Craft - W4MUS and Ed Craft - W4BYL Off to the side, the President Bob Hardwick - W4ETE, said we can have a cookout at his place. He will provide us with a nice swimming pool and all the fish we can eat. This is still in the making and will depend on what the committee comes up with.

I might add that of the two sparring around for Vice-President Ed Craft -

W4BYL, was out over his opponent Bill to win the place for V.-Pres. last meeting.

We would like to welcome Cuyler Smith - W4MGQ and Jerry Green - K4UBR as contributors to the growing list of subscribers to the news bulletin printed by the Assn. Cuyler and his newly formed Tallahassee ARC are now sending news to the Editor and Jerry of the Playground ARC in Ft. Walton has sent in his first article of ham news for the readers. In case you would like to receive a copy of the paper you can send requests to Lou - K4LAN and we will see that you receive a copy of the monthly bulletin. It's a project of the FFARA and is only for news and information surrounding NW Fla.

Don't forget the First Thursday in the month is business; second Thursday is bull session; third Thursday is Program night and fourth Thursday is bull session - In the event of a fifth Thursday it will also be a bull session. So there is something for everyone here at the shack of W4UC, YB come, meeting 7:30 at the Red Cross Bldg. on Government St. in Pensacola.

## WESTERN FLORIDA NEWS

By Frank M. Butler, Jr., W4RKH

New area hams are WN4NNC & WN4NWV in Pensacola, WN4NMP in Ft. Walton, WB4NHH in Destin and WN4NHQ in Panama City. NHH is former SCM, ex-W6CMN.

Pensacola: W4DHL used his vacation getting the repeater back on the air! The FFARA Newsletter was a big 11 pages this month. Milton: K4HOK renewed EC appointment.

Ft. Walton: K4LUN is back in area, working for Keltec. K4QHR moved to new QTH; better for radio he hopes. W4EEER sends greetings from Thailand; his family here has also moved to a new home.

Donnay: W4GTA has settled on a 900 acre farm north of here; he is active on 80 & 20m GSB and hopes to be on RTTY soon.

Chimney: W4IKB, XYL W42FK and family made a trip to Los Angeles. Apalachicola: K4BDY, EC, is working with C.D. officials to set up a county emergency station. He is also putting up 3 7-el. beams for 2-meters.

Cross City: W7NQY/4 has been transferred to Viet Nam. Tallahassee:

(Continued on Page 8)

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# CLUB NEWS

(Continued from Page 7)

The TARC was reorganized, with W4UQG as President, WB4AWD as V.P., and WB4QTY as Secretary. WB4LOQ did a fine job of digging out QTH's of all local hams, and running off the list on a computer!

## B.A.R.S.

By Gene Durkin WA4YNW

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society met August 11. With many members on vacation, no program was planned, just a good "Ham Session"! Starting with our September meeting, Al WA4RGO, Program Chairman, has a top-notch series of programs lined up.

The BARS Ham Camporee came too late for this issue. If you missed it, plan to be with us next year! More on this later.

We are planning a Notice Class for early October. Be sure and let the club know of any interested persons.

Gene WA4YNW/VE3 and Alvin WA4YNW/VE3 camped and hammed through VE3 land in early August. BARS members continue to get on 2 Meter FM at a fast pace. A Brandon area CD frequency will be set up soon.

Bill WB4LHF is Brandon's newest ham. Welcome to Brandon, Bill!

## PLAYGROUND A.R.C.

By Jerry Green K4UWR

With the club room freshly painted and the coffee pot (donated by WB4EQG, Okaloosa County EC) perking, the club turned its attention to the equipment needs.

The 2 meter transceiver will be refurbished to cover both the local 2M FM Intercom frequency and the Fort Walton repeater frequency. The Gonset Communicator was checked out and readied for use on the Fort Walton to Crestview link on 29560 kHz. A "Happy Accident" Ten Meter ground plane antenna will be erected on top of the club building and will serve both the Communicator and a C.B. transceiver until another antenna can be procured. Furniture for the club room is still needed but thanks to the many members who brought chairs to the meeting and then very thoughtfully left them at the club after the meeting.

The V.P., W4SMH, Jack, is investigating a long overdue club project, the completion of the Emergency Van and installation of equipment therein. It looks like a big project but one that will be well worth the effort. Jack's report will be a very interesting item on the agenda at our next meeting August 28th at the Old Police Station.

W4UT, Dave, is to be congratulated for his excellent catering at our last meeting and is to be further commended for his enselfish act of volunteering to be the permanent Refresh-

ment Committee chairman. Thanks Dave, the club will prosper with more members of your caliber.

## ORLANDO RAMBLINGS

By Hal, W4BKC

After surveying all the possible places to hold the Orlando Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest, the Committee has decided that the only place, although not quite adequate is the Hilton, on West 50. (Yes, they dropped the word Statler from the name, so it is the same place with only half the name they had last year.) The Committee hopes to find a larger place by '71. Several possibilities are still just past the drawing board stage, but won't be ready in time for the 'Fest next year.

The month has been changed too, it will be the 23 and 24 of May, 1970. Be sure to mark that down on your calendar for next year, or write it on the side of your piggy bank. Remember you read it first in SKIP.

Heard via the grapevine not that Bill Clinton, K2SRW will be back in these parts about November. Sure will be good to have an eyeball with Bill again.

In case you haven't had your vacation yet - better get with it - tempus fugit - it is over hope it was pleasant.

## FORT MYERS CLUB

By Ken W4SMK

The July meeting was a short one due to the scarcity of club members on hand. Guess the vacation time is to blame. Those present held an informal bull session about amateur affairs.

W4YTF, SEC for T. 1-FL, was guest speaker at the club meeting in August.

Andy was on vacation and brought Betty, W4GGQ, and the rest of the family along.

Club president K4HNV was out to the Boy Scout meeting at Parris State Park, Idaho. He worked back home to W4HND from the station there at K2TBSA. Joe also took along a little portable rig of his own to do some local hamming.

The picture of K4A KC1 which appeared in the last issue of Skip was taken by the OM himself, Ed K4EA. Ed kindly supplied us with several pictures of the DX operation and we want to give him full credit.

There are at least 120 amateurs in the Ft. Myers and Lee County area. Assuming that 50% or 60% of these are active we wonder why average attendance at club meetings is about 15 to 20 people. The CB club can turn out more people than that at a committee meeting. How about supporting the club just a little bit once in a while? Meetings are every third Monday of the month at the Yacht Basin office.

Congratulations to all the amateurs, and other fine technicians, who played a part in the Apollo 11 adventure. The communications that NASA displayed was tremendous.

## W4IKB Elected President of APSC

At the summer conference of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officers held at Miami Beach June 26-27, G. D. McKechnie (Mac-W4IKB) of Chipley, Florida was elected

President of the association. McKechnie became a member of the association in 1963. He served on the executive board of directors since 1965.

The purpose of the organization is to foster the development and progress the art of police, highway and other public safety communications, to aid and assist in the development of methods, systems and other media for the rapid exchange of information relating to crime, emergencies, and other important matters of a public safety nature.

Mac holds a First Class Radiotelephone and Second Class Radiotelegraph, both with ships radar endorsements. Mac was at one time an instructor in Radar and Electronics maintenance and wrote a course in Basic Electronics and Math.

He has been an active ham for the past 16 years receiving his license while in Japan and operated KA2LG. His main interests are in emergency communications. He is the Deputy Civil Defense Director for Washington County, as well as section Emergency Coordinator for West Florida, ARRL.

For the past six years he has been employed by the State Road Department as their District Communications Equipment Technician. Mac also acts as a Consultant Engineer for many of the local Broadcasting Stations throughout the Southeastern United States.

## OPEN LETTER

To All Radio Amateurs Eastern Fla. Section, ARRL

Dear Fellow Amateurs,

Following the resignation of Mr. William G. Blasingame WA4NEV as Section Communications Manager, my name was placed in nomination for said vacated office. I have accepted the nomination.

I am fully qualified for the position, having served two terms in the past and am familiar with the duties of the office. An active amateur for over 26 years I am fully cognizant of the amateur viewpoint. I am employed by the Federal Aviation Administration as an Electronic Technician. An active member of the South Miami Radio Club, South Fla. FM Association, Quarter Century Wireless Association and various emergency organizations. I am a member of Coral Villa Baptist Church in Miami, an overseas veteran of World War II, a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Mahi Shriner.

As an active member of the ARRL and AREC I will continue my full support to the interests of amateurs throughout the Section.

I do pledge that correspondence will be answered promptly and courteously. Suggestions will be welcomed and will be given due consideration.

Whenever possible, all Hamfests and large gatherings will be attended with the intent of meeting you in person, hearing your problems and getting your personal view of conditions. This way, prompt and equitable corrective action may be instituted or taken where necessary.

Having personal knowledge of the fine work that our present SEC, ECs and members of the AREC have been doing, no changes are planned in our emergency personnel staffing.

Your support and vote for me as your Section Communications Manager will be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally yours,  
John F. Porter W4KQJ





J. R. Hopkin Jr., AFCEBND

We have a ray of bright hope for the future with the appointment of Roy Pitzer as our State Director. He has shown his ability to cope with A.F. MARS paperwork and policies in the past and being retired has the time to devote to the program. I can't think of a better qualified man in our State to fill Herman's shoes. So let's all get behind him and continue our State as one of the leaders of the program.

Speaking of leaders brings some thoughts to mind. Some of ours are not getting the job done.

To illustrate, let me cite the case of our energetic Public Affairs coordinator. Single handedly he turns out our State newsletter faithfully every month. He has asked, cajoled, demanded, pleaded and requested info and articles for the Newsletter. With over 800 members, ten nets and several special agencies he's lucky to get five net reports. That's pitiful.

He continues to do a fine job, however, and will continue in spite of you. Not all our specialists fall into this category. An example of this is the crystal bank. G.E. and Ned continue to do their best to keep the whole region in crystals. As always there is a shortage of them. So if you have any crystals that are encapsulated in metal covers that you are not using send them along to Ft. Myers where they will be put to good use.

Another shining example of someone doing his job is AFA4-CF Frank Shannon Sr. His net reports are pertinent, newsworthy and on time. In fact all the net reporters are at least involved in the program, why not everyone else?

Our transcon agents are in a class by themselves. If one third of their work and enthusiasm could be instilled into the rest we'd be a shining example to the rest of the program. Think it over, isn't there something else you can do for the program besides take traffic? If there is contact Roy about it. I'm sure he will welcome you with all his enthusiasm.

## AMATEUR OF THE MONTH FRANK M. BUTLER, JR.



—photo by W4IKB

Frank received his first amateur license in April 1950 for the call he holds today, W4RKH. He started as a General, received the Advanced Class in 1951 (Class "A" in those days), and the Extra Class in 1952, one of the first issued by exam at the Mobile, Ala. FCC office. He was first introduced to radio in the 1930's by his uncle, GCP, now W4HA; he served in the Signal Corps in WW2. He also holds radiotelephone first class and radiotelegraph second class tickets.

Frank's principal interest in amateur radio is local public service. His favorite band and mode is 2m FM, and he monitors the local frequency at all times while at home or in the car for possible emergency traffic. He is also a regular member and ACS of the 15m West Florida Phone Net, and has handled traffic during numerous hurricanes and tornadoes in his area.

Among his other activities are: Secretary/Treasurer and Trustee of Eglin AFB radio club, W4NN; member Air Force MARS and currently Chairman of local Base Support group; Civil Defense Communications Officer for Okaloosa County and City of Fort Walton Beach; RACES Radio Officer; member NW Florida FM Assn.; and ARRL SCM for Western Florida, a post he has held for 12 years.

A special phase of ham activity that Frank enjoys is transmitter hunts. He keeps his D.F. antenna handy at all times, and on more than one occasion has tracked down an unknown signal from a local ham whose rig had accidentally been left on!

There are no other hams in Frank's family, but his younger son is almost up to 5 wpm and may get his Novice license soon. Outside of ham activities, Frank finds time to sing in a local church choir and serve on its Official Board. He has lived in Fort Walton Beach since 1961 and works as an electronic engineer at Eglin Air Force Base.

### NEW RADIO CLASSES

All interested persons are reminded that new amateur radio classes start Sept. 3rd at the Southwest Miami High Adult Education Center. The classes will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. Registration fee is \$2.00. Each student must purchase the text book, Amateur Radio Theory Course by Ameco. They can be obtained from any major radio supply at \$3.95. For more details call Hal Williams, W4YP after 5 p.m. at 238-2197.

### NEW PROJECT

A new project at ARRL Headquarters involves preparation of introductory amateur radio material for the 12 to 15 age group. Any amateur in this age group, as well as older ones is invited to participate in this project.

Address your ideas on what the publication should contain, what age reading level should be involved, as well as comments on theory coverage to ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111.



### CITRUS CHAPTER

The second meeting of Citrus Chapter, QCWA (formerly Central Fla. Chapter) will be held at the Melbourne Hamfest, at the Melbourne Civic Auditorium, Sept. 13th. All QCWA members, whether members of Citrus Chapter or not, are invited to join us for a good ole eyeball QSO and a renewal of long standing friendship.

The meeting will be under the direction of Citrus Chapter's Section Chief for the Cocoa Melbourne Area, Glenn Diggs, W4BFQ, 65 Georgia Ave., Merritt Island. Contact Glenn for details and arrangements for the meeting.

All QCWA members are urged to check in at the QCWA Desk near the registration area. The time and place of the meeting will be announced at the desk as you check in. No formal reservation-type dinner is planned for this meeting.

If you reside in the general 60 miles radius area, centered in Orlando; and wish to join Citrus Chapter, contact Bill Waldo or Glenn Diggs at the QCWA Desk. Also, join us on 7263 kc on Saturdays at 1 PM for latest details of Chapter activities.

Bill Waldo - W4PI  
Secretary, Citrus Chapter



FOR A QUICK ANSWER to the door of S. H. Traeger, W4RK of Miami, tap out a CQ on his door-bell-key. It works every time. (For c.w. men only.)



## TROPICAL PHONE NET

By Ken W4SMK

Net manager WB4FLW reports the following stations are acting as net controls besides himself, WA4SFF, WA4NEE, WB4GUE, W4SMK, and WB4EPD. Anyone interested in being an NCS or alternate NCS should contact Ted.

WB4IBY/M was a great help during the Miami area power failure on the fifth of August. Doug was the only mobile, or other station, on from that area on 1940 KHz. for an hour or so. More comments on the black out will appear elsewhere in Skip.

The Summer band conditions have been difficult at times, but so far all net sessions have been held with no misses. Numerous relays of traffic are necessary at times, but TPTN manages to stay in second place most of the time in the traffic net standings.

New net members include Joan WB4GHD, Miami, and Dave, WB4IAC, in Jacksonville. Glad to have you with us.

W4NGR is operating portable again near St. Cloud, and has a nice signal from the camping grounds there.

WA4BMC is suffering with facial neuralgia which makes it difficult for her to talk so Bertha has had to curtail her net activity. WA4BMC has a really beautiful QSL card in full color which shows her station which is shared with Slim, WA4AZZ.

In November when the incentive licensing plan is going into phase two the high end of 75 meters will probably become quite crowded with both nets and ordinary operating activities. Considerable patience and tact will be necessary to avoid conflicts with stations causing QRM on TPTN and other nets. Stations involved let's try to be gentlemen and ladies, 73

## FLA. MIDDAY TRAFFIC NET

By Herb, W4LSH

July news is mostly vacation news. Dick, K4LEC and KYL shortened their visit to the Georgia mountains and wound up their vacation at the beach. With Fred, W4ZF and Ted, WB4CBP on vacation we are fortunate to have Josh, WB4GHD join and help Charlie, W4AKB handle the Miami traffic. Fred, W4JEB returned safely from his three week trip and Ricky, W4JNL from his visit to Cleveland.

Bud, WB4LKK is leaving for Oland (Kansas City) on or about August 15th. Steve, WB4HTJ is anxiously waiting for the return of his hot water 100 which probably will arrive during his absence on a 2 week visit to Mississippi.

The band went out several times during July, like the day nobody could read anyone except W4JK and he relayed for Clyde, W4SDR who was NCS. And speaking of Net Controls, Bill, W4RQR did a fine job as NCS during the absence of Ted, WB4CBP.

New on the roster in addition to Joanne mentioned above are Mike, WB4UJ and Henry, WB4LEQ. Both of them are in Jacksonville.

Your reporter and KYL, WA4TTP are planning a trip to Pennsylvania, leaving August 12th. This is by choice a vacation from retirement and, not by choice a vacation from ham radio. We expect to be back in time to gather up the August news for our Skip column. Our friend and neighbor Art, W4SRG who often helps the Net with Winter Park traffic and phone patches, has returned from a 3 week trip to Massachusetts and will take the Orlando traffic as often as he can check in, during my absence. Please bear with Art if he misses a few checkins. He is single and has another hobby besides Ham Radio.

We enjoyed some landline QSO's with Bill, W4ZAK during his recent visit to his family in Winter Park. His son Ken is an Engineer with TV channel 2.

FMTN had 27 sessions in the long month of July. 671 Stations handled 487 messages. Average QNI was 24.9 and average QTC was 18.

## QFN REPORT



By Dan Franklin K4EHY

We are sorry to report that old QFN member Jim Hudson Jr. WA4BAW became a silent key 10 August. Jim was killed when a car ran him down at an army base in Georgia. Jim had only been in the U. S. Army a few weeks. Flowers were arranged from QFN and Dade APPSC.

QFN for July was rough. QTC 252 QN1941 QND 960 averaging 6 stations, 5 messages and 18 minutes per session for 32 sessions reported. (10 missing). QFN missed three sessions on 4 RN.

Announcing the Appointments of Assistant Net Managers to concentrate on improving the net: Asst. Net Mgr for NSC W4TRG; Asst. Net Mgr for 4300 Liaison WB4JHW; Asst. Net Mgr for RN5 Liaison SR1Y/W4;

Asst. Net Mgr. for SS8 Liaison WA4SCK. These ops will need all the help you all can give them, especially volunteers for net assignments once a week.

Announcing also the establishment of a weekly Sunday afternoon session for getting to know each other and talking out any problems. The net should have started Sunday August 17 at 1400 EDT on 7255 KC/8. The net will be informal, and continue each Sunday as long as there is interest and participation. SSR and AM and CW all welcome.

EHY/W4 is new NCS. Also W4FNS is new Alt NCS doing great job. New stations QNT: K4YRW Miami; WB4IAC Dave Jan; WB4LFL Bill FL Land. WA4TOQ George New Port Richey is back and trying to solve difficulty with 80 foot ht to get on 80 mtrs. Getting a lot of QNT's now that K4GJ and others are back from their vacations. K4KE got his W2 award.

WA4SCK is organizing the regular Liaison from the late session QFN to the daytime zone nets for relaying traffic for which there is no outlet on QFN. SSR the men are urged to volunteer. Contrary to popular belief QFN IS NOT A HIGH SPEED net. Average speed is 30 wpm but all will be happy to QRS to 13 wpm. All it takes is asking.

73 ... BT ... Dan K4EHY/4 ...  
AL ... N

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## TOP TWENTY TRAFFIC TAKERS

Each month we are happy to list the top twenty traffic takers in Florida. Next month we hope to see your call here.

1. WA4SCK	569	11. K4LAN	102
2. WB4ATW	427	12. W4EHW	92
3. K4EHY	270	13. W4SDR	85
4. K4VPY	245	14. WA4NBE	82
5. WB4HJW	218	15. W4YPX	77
6. WB4GHD	126	16. WB4FLW	73
7. WA4GPH	117	17. WA4HEB	67
8. WA4JH	115	18. W4HLE	60
9. K4DAX	114	19. W4ZAK	53
10. SR1Y/W4	105	20. W4BZY/4	53

## TRAFFIC HOUNDS

Ken Locke, W4YPX

NET	QNI	AVG. QNI	QTC	AVG. QTC	SESSIONS
FMTN	671	24.9	487	18.	27
GATOR	198	6.4	167	5.4	31
FAST	578	21.4	142	5.2	27
TPTN	471	18.1	106	4.0	26
FPTN	368	14.4	66	2.4	27
QFN -	949	6.0	252	4.9	60
WFPN	413	-	60	-	30



THE SOUTH MIAMI RADIO CLUB (K4JVA) went all out for Field Day with this Giant Tel-Flex, 5 element wide spaced 20 meter beam. It weighed 180 pounds and had a 37 ft. boom. Owner, WA4HND, said it knocked dead in Europe in it's fixed position up 40 feet high. (Photo by K4KIC)

## SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?

By Don Klobe, WA4KJY

Did you know that almost every telephone subscriber line in the U.S. now has a nominal impedance of 900 ohms? Did you know that the power of the signal from your phone patch must not exceed 12 db below 1 mw averaged over any three second interval at the central office? Did you know that the

power in the band 3295 to 4000 Hz must be 18 db below the limit (that is, 18db below the 12 db below 1 mw at central)? Do you know the line loss from your QTH to the central office? Did you know that not knowing the answers to these questions could cost you \$10 each time the telephone company traces a problem to your phone patch?

As you can see, there is a little more involved to connect-

ing a phone patch to your equipment than you had imagined. The telephone company has long been opposed to hams connecting into their equipment and you can well see why. A ham not familiar with telephone equipment specs could cause a lot of trouble at central office. Such things can occur as a too high receiver output causing cross talk, a band of frequencies coming thru and triggering

auto tone systems, etc. Familiarity with phone company standards and tariffs could save you a lot of trouble with the phone company.

I suggest that all hams who are considering hooking up a phone patch read the following article: To Patch Or Not To Patch, May 1969, 73 Magazine; Phone Patching - Legitimately, March 1969 QST. (W4KJY LOG) (FROM MARS SCOPE)

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Pres. W4LKM V.P. W4QBY  
Sec. K4RHL Trust. K4HXS



## TRY THIS 'IRON-SAVER'

de K4PZW \*

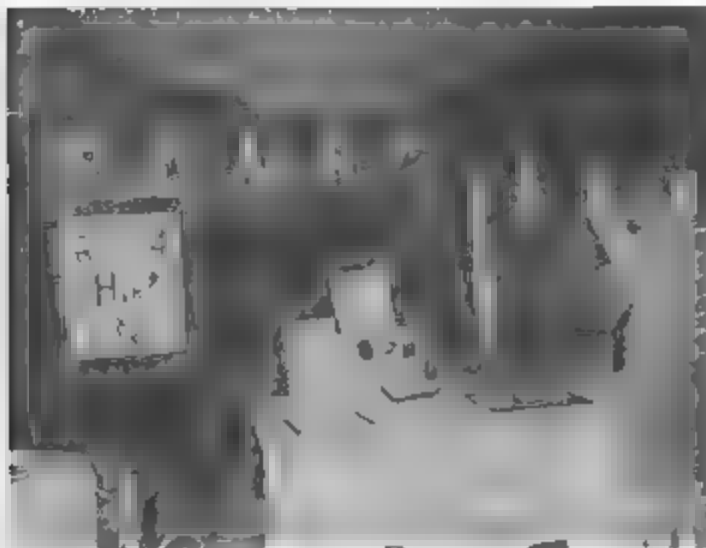
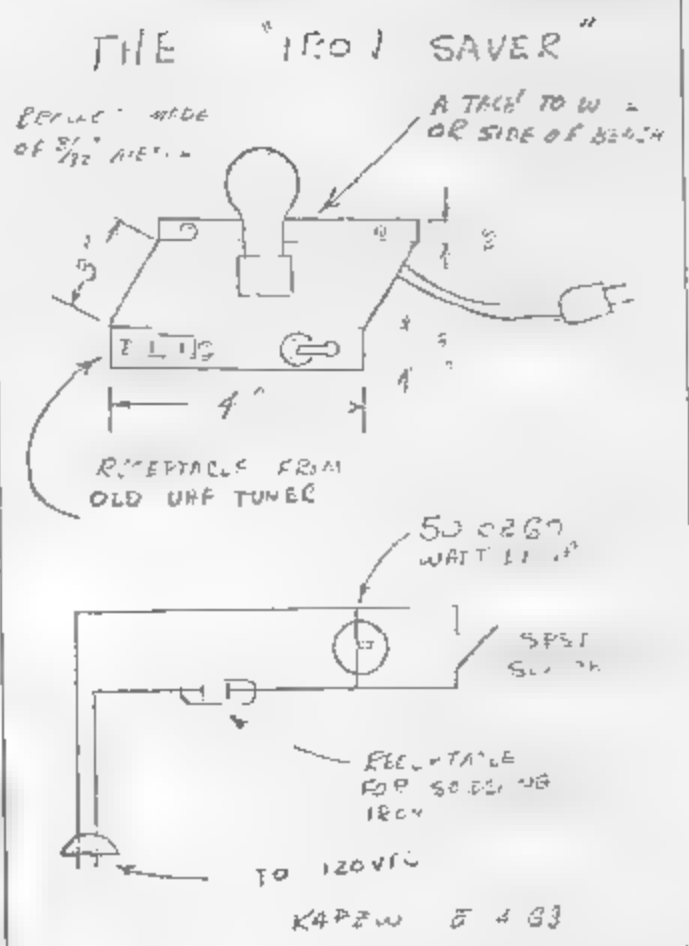
Although this little gadget has been used at this station for many years, visitors still show interest in it. Much time is spent on construction projects here and the soldering iron is plugged in ready for use many hours as a time

This "saver" can be used with any iron, but my favorite for economy, size and endurance is made by Unger. Their handle equipped with a 47-1/2 watt, silver-plated, chisel tip is standard here. This iron provides enough heat for all but the very largest jobs and eliminates those "cold" joints. BUT, when plugged in and idle for long periods, scale will build up on the tip and over long periods of time the iron clad will separate from the tip. This is where the "Iron-Saver" comes in. It is simply a suitable light bulb wired in series with the iron and a switch to cut out the bulb for heavier tasks. With the series bulb in the circuit, the iron may remain heated for days without oxidation scale building up and is ready for instant use.

With the 47-1/2 watt tip I use a 50 to 60 watt bulb, with a lesser wattage tip, use a bulb with a wattage rating approximately the same as the tip.

If you are a constructor, and if you try the "saver", I doubt that you will ever use a gun or a large clumsy iron again.

Robert J. Murphy  
7103 Wendy Circle  
Jacksonville, Florida 32211



THE PLAT NUM COAST ARS infiltrated the National CB Jamboree in Melbourne, Aug. 1, 2, and 3. Here, John, W4VDM (left) and Mike, W84-THM talked to an interested CBER. The booth was manned also by K4DD, WA4WWP, W4BWS and W84AGE, working in shifts. W4VDM reports he may have a SKIP story on this year.

—photo by W4BWS

## IMRA Doing Well in Fla.

Many of our SKIP readers will be happy to know that the IMRA is going strong now in Florida. The INTERNATIONAL MISSION RADIO ASSOCIATION now has 300 members worldwide. IMRA held its annual convention August 4th and 5th at the Everglades Hotel in Miami.

The primary goals of the organization, which undoubtedly are to assist in providing com-

munications facilities to members of organizations engaged in missionary or volunteer services; to provide radio service and communications for the community in time of local emergency or disaster; and to further international good will.

"We probably have 1,000 members all told," Father Linchan, W1HWK, said, "but only 300 have paid dues." Originally we were known as the Catholic Mission Radio Association with only priests and religious as members. But we soon realized that such a membership was impractical so now it is open to everyone who has such an international interest at heart."

IMRA has on the air skeds and nets that meet on 75, 40 and 20 SSB. For more info and a frequency listing write: International Secretariat, IMRA, Miss Marie Sutter, W4BLE1, The Grall, Loveland, Ohio 45140



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# Florida SKIP DIRECTORY

Each month you will find the following listings. Keep it handy. ARRL Officials are listed free. Florida Nets are listed free upon notification from net managers. (Clubs listed for \$12.00 per year. (Free to clubs taking box ads elsewhere.) Any individual amateur may be listed for \$5.00 a year. (The ones who really care.) Let's fill up this page!

## ARRL LISTINGS

Director, S.E. Division  
**CHARLES BOLVIN K4KO**  
2210 S.W. 27th Lane  
Miami, Florida 33133

Vice Director, S.E. Div.  
**A.L. HAMEL K4SJM**  
220 N.E. 25th Street  
Pompano Beach, Fla. 33064

Acting SCM E. Fla.  
**RON LOCKE W4YPX**  
7306 Arble Drive  
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211

SCM West Florida  
**FRANK M. BUTLER, Jr. W4RKH**  
323 Elliott Rd., S.E.  
Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. 32548

SEC East Florida  
**ANDY CLARK W4IYT**  
41 Canape Drive  
Miami Springs, Fla. 33166

SEC West Florida  
**G.D. McKECHNIE W4IKB**  
1000 N. 6th Street  
Chipley, Florida 32428

Asst. SEC East Florida  
**KEN STEWART W4SMK**  
2267 Maple Ave.  
Ft. Myers, Fla. 33901

## NET LISTINGS

**QFN (All Florida)**  
630 p.m., 7095 kc.  
1000 p.m. kc., daily 3651 kc.  
Net Mgrs.: K4LAN/ WB4FSF

**FSBA Sundays**  
6 p.m. on 3940 kc.

**FSBN Wednesday**  
7:30 p.m. on 3940 kc.

**KNIGHTS OF K1LOCYCLE**  
Sundays  
7:30 a.m. on 3910 kc.

**GATOR NET (GN)**  
Daily 8:30 a.m. on 7115 kc.  
Net manager: K4CDO

**TROPICAL PHONE TRAFFIC  
NET (TPTN)**  
Daily except Sun., 8 p.m. on  
3945 kc.  
Net Manager: WB4EPD

**FLA. AMATEUR SIDEBAND  
TRAFFIC NET**  
(FAST) Daily except Sat.  
7 p.m. on 3940 kc.  
Net Manager: WA4TWD

**WEST FLORIDA PHONE NET  
(WFPN)**  
5 p.m. on 3957 kc. (2200Z)  
Net Manager W4MQD

**FLA. PHONE TRAFFIC  
NET** Mon. thru Sat.  
7 a.m. on 3945 kc. Net  
Mgr: WA4CIG

**FLA. MIDDAY TRAFFIC NET**  
Daily except Sun. at 12 noon  
On 7255 kc. Net. Mgr. W4SDR

**NOVICE HURRICANE NET**  
(NHN) Sat. & Sun.  
2:30 p.m. on 7165 kc.  
Net Manager: WN4IIV

**LAKE OKEECHOBEE  
TRAFFIC NET**  
2 Mtrs. 145.2 Mcs.  
Wed. 2000 Local  
Net Mgr.: WB4BMH

**GOLD COAST EMERGENCY  
NET**  
6 Mtrs. 50.445 mc Mon. 2000 local  
2 Mtrs. 145.23 mc Tues. 2000 local  
WB4CKY, EC Broward Co., Mgr.

## CLUB LISTING

**BROWARD AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB WAAB**  
2nd Wed. of month, 7:30 p.m.  
Broward County Courthouse  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8673  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33310  
More info. call 522-2606, 522-5674

**LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSN.,  
INC., W4YKY**  
Meets each Thurs., 8 p.m., EST  
Clubhouse, Springdale Ave.,  
Bassville Pk., between Leesburg  
and Tavares, Florida  
Mail to Sec., 1270 Sheridan Rd.  
Mount Dora, Fla. 32757  
Phone: 383-4548

**HILLSBOROUGH AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY, INC. WA4GJJ**  
Meets 4th Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
6220 Nebraska Ave., Tampa, Fl. #.  
Mail to: 12112 N. Edison Ave. (33612)  
Visitors always welcome

**DADE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
(W4NVU) 1st & 3rd Tuesday**  
Museum of Science 8 p.m.  
3280 So. Miami Avenue  
Miami, Florida  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 73  
Biscayne Annex  
Miami, Florida 33152

**NORTH FLORIDA AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY W4IZ**  
2nd Thursday, 7:30 P.M.  
Duval CO Headquarters  
107 Market Street  
Jacksonville, Fla. 32202

**ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB, Inc. W4GAC**  
Meetings: 1st Friday  
Azalea Community Center  
1400 - 72nd St., No.  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4026  
For information phone:  
345-0464 or 826-4294

**ORLANDO AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB, INC.**  
3rd Wed., 8:00 p.m.,  
First Federal Savings & Loan  
on Edgewater Drive. Mailing  
Address: Box 13267,  
Orlando, Fla. 32809  
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More info. call 644-9896  
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Mailing Address:  
W4LKM, Annette Thompson  
1401 S.W. 14th Court  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33312  
Nets: Tues., 1400Z on 3933

**GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RA-  
DIO SOCIETY, K4OPZ 1st Tues.**  
8:00 pm, Alachua CO Head-  
quarters Basement, County  
Court House. Mailing Ad-  
dress: 1421 SW 13th Ave.,  
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

**TAMPA AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB, INC. W4DUG**  
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays  
7:30 p.m.  
Club House: Davis Islands,  
Columbus & Barbados  
Mailing Address: 943 Cimmer-  
on Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33603

**SARASOTA AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSN. INC.**  
Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month  
8 p.m.  
At Sarasota Federal (S. Gate Branch)  
Club Cak W4IE in memory of  
Charlie Service

**SOUTH MIAMI RADIO CLUB, INC.  
K4JVA**  
1st & 3rd Friday, 8 P.M.  
Kendall Methodist Church  
7600 S.W. 104th St., Miami, Fla.  
33156  
More info call:  
446-2478 or 667-4564



## ARMY MARS

By Kris Krystak  
A4PCF

Heard by the grapevine that the Fla. One group had a real fine time at the station of Mac, A4IKB in Chipley. We were sorry that we did not get to attend. Judging from the gang that checked into the net, it must have been a ball. Heard that Wade, the boss man was also there. Now comes a thought . . . When is the Fla. Two gang going to get their group together? The last one was a real picnic. So what say gang?

Looks like the procedures officer is being kept very busy during this session. He has been keeping as all on the ball as it were. Personally, I think that if we all read the manual and get so that he has to really work at the job. As it is now all he has to do is listen to a net and get all that he needs for a couple of hours of lecture. So let's really make him work.

In MARS the training nets are set up for the purpose of training all the members in the military procedures and it would behoove us all to remember that we are using the frequencies allocated to the military, not the amateur band. We therefore are to be governed by their rules and regs.

We are in MARS for the prime purpose of morale boosting to our service men, and also act as a backup for the services in the communication end of the link. All this we can only do if we all buckle down and remember that we are part of a great organization and we should be very proud of it.

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MN-2000	139.00
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720	49.00
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Galaxy V, Mark II	249.00
RV-1	40.00
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77A & AC-DC Supply	69.00
86B & AC-DC Supply	69.00
Gonset Comm. III 6M	99.00
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NC 98	69.00
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NC 270	89.00
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An Advertising inch is measured 7" vertically on one column, i.e., 4 columns - 40 columns inches to a page. Rate card by column inch supplied upon request. FLORIDA SKIP, Advertising Department, P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, Fla. 33166.

FOR SALE: Galaxy V, MK II, AC-400 Pwr supp, remote VFO, CW filter and VOX. One year old, needs a little work, \$425. or best offer. Bill Walker, WB4EYX, 1730 Woodmere Drive, Jacksonville, Fla. Phone 380-4297.

TRADE: HW-30 "TWOER" with xtal - excellent condn, year old, for HG 10-B VFO. Regis E. Kramer, WA1LE, 156 NE 76th St., 33106, Phone 754-0882.

WANTED: One each 30AT and 450T tube for display. Filament not essential but physical looks must be excellent. Also looking for other uncommon types. Write Al Marcy, WA1D, 441-3rd Ave., Sea Park, East Gaffo, Florida 32835

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-170 with clock, like new, viking valiant in good shape, both for \$200.00, no piece sale. Paul Murrain, WA1LQ, 503 SW 34th Ave., Miami, Fla. 33134, Phone 443-4751

FOR SALE: NCX-3, NCX-A good condition. Will deliver and set up within 75 miles or ship REA collect. \$170 cash or take good receiver in trade. Don Nye, K4QCP, 704-208 SW 16th Ave., Gainesville, Fla., 32601, Phone 378-5876.

WANTED: B&W LPA-1 or L-1006A RF Linear. Prefer L&P-1. State age, best price and condition. F. B. Criss, WA4VTR, 1321 S. W. 9th Ave., Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33441

FOR SALE: Thunderbolt Linear Amplifier, 2000 W, 4-400A's, \$200. R. E. Hendry, K4CAH, 2065 W. First St., Ft. Myers, FL 33902, Phone 337-6261 days or 936-5762 nights.

WANTED: 40-ft crankup tower, 6 meter VFO, 8 mHz; 6 mtr converter or good 6 mtr transceiver. Will sell or trade new Ameco 642 transmitter. Ken Kirton K8URV/4, 3301 53rd St., N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710, Phone 525-5569.

WANTED: All interested persons sign up for the Amateur Radio class, beginning Sept. 3rd, Mon. and Wed. from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Southwest Miami High School adult Education Center in Miami. Registration \$2.00. Textbook by Ameco. For more details call Ed Williams WA4YF after 5 p.m. at 238-2197.

FOR SALE: Conset VHF amplifier, 50W 2 meters, make offer; Heath DX-60 w/3 xtals, make offer; Heath HR-10 revr, make offer; Elmac PMR-7, AF 67 and M-1070 supply, revr and xmt, 12vdc/115 vac, make offer; Hallcrafters 144-174 mHz portable hand held monitor receiver \$15; - AMECO transistorized multi-band converter, 160 thru 2 meters with manual; Globe Hi-Bander VHF-62 6 and 2 meter xmt. George Borone K4KGB, 308 So. Federal Highway, Stuart, Fla. 33494, Phone 287-2008

FOR SALE: Collins KWS-1 \$300.00, S-40 Hallcrafters revr, top shape \$35.00, 4E27 Pr. \$5.00, 8072 pulls \$3.00 each, 813 new \$5.00 each, 6146 pulls .30 each (in order 5) it wait marine radio \$25.00. Dumont model 241 scope, 4 mc B/W lab scope \$60.00. BC-611C walkie-talkie on 3855 kc new with spare tubes \$15.00. 12 volt cox relay \$5.00. CTC-9 RCA color TV, working condition \$75.00 as is. 6 meter converter 7-11 mc output \$2.00. KWS-1 power transformer new \$20.00. Shure model 556S broadcast mike \$15.00. Collins 100kHz standard oscillator for KWT-6 \$15.00. 60 meter mobile receiver, 12 volt supply ARC-5 converted to 3.5 to 4 mHz only \$20.00. Tundable KW low pass filter \$5.00. 14 inch B&W picture tube, 14AJ, used only for bench test \$10.00. BC610 antenna tuner \$20.00. Jim Edris WA4TBM, 20520 Jacaranda Road, Miami, Fla. 33157 Phone 235-8826.

FOR SALE: Johnson Banger, like new, very clean \$72.00. Vibroplex, "lightening" like new \$18.00. "On-The-Air" lighted sign 12L 4H 4D, 110v.a.c. comes on when transmitter goes on air. \$6.00. Heath HI-FI FM tuner, AJ-31 \$20.00. Heath B-1 Balm like new \$4.00. Scott SLR-F receiver 80 kc to 24.0 MHz, built like battle ship, completely overhauled \$50.00. Shure Bros. Mod. 405C mobile fixed mike, like new \$10.00. HARVEY-Wells, DeLuxe TBS 502 with Harvey-Wells power supply, 3.5 to 145.0 mc, \$35.00. Andy Clark WA4YT, 41 Leape Dr., Miami Springs, Fla. 33166 Phone 588-3874.

FOR SALE: Johnson Valiant II with SSP adaptor, now in service; Conset G-77 transmitter with power supply and cables, in operation; no receiver; Johnson Match Box, new, never used 250W; assorted meters, AC and DC ammeters/milliammeters, volt-meters, tube-tester and several lab-type meters; assorted tubes from 201-A to present day, most in original boxes, over 100 supply. J. R. Peterson WA0BB, 2215 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, Fla. 32977

FOR SALE: Collins Power supply, Model FM-2 for KW1-2/2A, \$125.00; Linear Amplifier, designed and built by Collins Engineer from same parts used in 30S-1 Amplifier, \$250.00. Will trade or sell for Collins Radio Equipment: brand new 1969 model Honda CB-350 Motor Bike, Chuck Watters WA4HE, P.O. Box 8401, Orlando, Florida. Phone 833-8737

FOR SALE OR SWAP: EV Georgian speakers (drivers only) woofer, mid-range-super tweeter, crossover; Trusonic 15" woofer and 8-cell horn plus crossover; for someone who wants the test, make offers. F. S. McCullough WA4WH, Rte A-2, Box 296, Dunnellon, Fla., 33520.

FOR SALE: Heath Apache, \$85.00, HQ-110C, \$85.00, both in excellent condition. Ted Temejer, WA4YBM, 19720 SW 76th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33157, Phone 235-4844

FOR SALE: SX-140, \$40; NC-156 \$25; CP-1; HBTriband rig, 30-W 6-DQ6 final, 80-40-15 meters, \$15; TBS-8 (VHF band) 110 vac XCVI, revr is xtal controlled and needs tubes, as is \$10; misc other. Sam Thomas, W4KXNR 7704 Federal Hwy. U.S. 1, Ft. Pierce, Fla. 33450, Phone 464-4570

FOR SALE: DRAKE TR-4, AC-3, MS-4 for \$480. Drake DC-3 mobile power supply \$80.00 Hustler 75 meter mobile antenna \$10.00. Hy-Gain 14AVS vertical antenna \$10.00. Doc Mock WA4HD, 7525 SW 135th St., Miami, Fla. Phone 238-6824

FOR SALE: Conset Communicator IV two meter transceiver, excellent \$150.00 E. M. Long K4GEW, 2056 McGregor, Ft. Myers, Fla. Phone ED-4-3271

## FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

Ray Murphy, W4BNE, HARS President in Tampa was instrumental in getting WFLA-TV, Channel 8, to participate in this event with Amateur Radio featured on George Michelle's "Florida Today" on Tuesday, June 17th and Friday, June 20th.

Also participating in the program were TARC, BARS, MARS, and the Florida Sideband Emergency Net.

## FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE CORPS

By Ken W4SMK

Where was Southeast Florida when the lights went out? We hope the local emergency nets were functioning well, and all members had their emergency generators working on the night of August 5. Unlike the SET real emergencies are not announced in advance as some of you in the ARPC can testify. WB4JBY and WA4PWF, both mobile, were the only stations in the black out area we heard for a long time on 75 meters. In addition to the power troubles the telephone switchboards were jammed at some locations which complicated things a bit more.

One thing many of us forget is that if the power goes off it is impossible to get gas at the filling station for our emergency generators since the gas pumps are electrically operated. A mobile rig is mighty handy at such times. A severe storm was in the Miami area at the time of the black out, and this made it difficult for some to reach their mobiles, or to go out to crank up their generators. Be sure and keep the gas tank in your cap filled around hurricane time, also.

East Fla. EC's are reminded to send your monthly reports to W4SMK at the end of each month. My report must go in by the fifth of the month, so please be sure to mail or radio any changes in your local system to me by that time. West Fla. EC's report to the SEC of W. Fla., W4HKB.

Station activity reports (ARRL form 1) are to be sent to the SCM of your section. W4RKH is SCM for W. Fla. and W4YYPX is acting SCM for E. Fla. until the SCM election is held. ARRL members be sure to support the new SCM, and vote in that election.

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Lafayette Associate Store



BUSY RACKING UP POINTS for W4UC/4 of Pensacola, were John Dean, WB4DVM (left) and his logger during Field Day. See Five Flaps ARA scores elsewhere. —photo via K4LAN

## K4MAX Is Back On Air

(Editors note: Several months ago SKIP published a letter requesting help from Nelson Russell, K4MAX of Lake Placid. Nelson is up in tears and needed help. Here is the results of that letter.)

On May 24, Ted Wayne, WB4CBP, and yours truly met at the home of Nelson Russell, K4MAX, in Lake Placid. Nelson had been off the air for some two years and was anxious to return to the ham bands.

Upon investigation of the station we found Nelson's antenna system and HT-37 had suffered a lightning strike. The antenna system was first on the list of repairs and by 4 PM that day we had inverted V's up 40 feet for 40 and 20 meters. The old coax was shorted by the lightning. No coax could be found at local suppliers but we were aided a great deal by Bev, W4CKB, who so graciously donated some coax. Many thanks to Bev.

Since Nelson's HT-37 was inoperative, Ted removed his 500C from the car and installed it in Nelson's shack. The results were very gratifying. Several contacts on 40 and 20 meters with good signal reports and VSWR readings told us we

were in business - the new antennas were working well.

Around 5:30 PM we called it a day. It was indeed a most pleasant day although a lot of work was involved. A wonderful noon meal was served by Mrs. Russell and I was hard pressed getting Ted back to work after such a delicious meal.

Ted spent the weekend in Lake Placid at a summer home while I returned to Bradenton with Nelson's HT-37. May 26 found Ted on 20 meters running a phone patch into Chicago and placing an order for a new relay with Hallicrafters. The relay was received at this QTH May 30 and installed the same day. Operation was normal for two days and then more bad luck. The power transformer shorted. This was more or less expected since it had been sitting up for two years.

The transformer was sent to Jess Price to be rewound, being returned about six days later. The HT-37 was operated here for two days with good results. On June 8, I returned the HT-37 to Nelson and we placed it in operation on 40 meters with good results. Nelson has been active on 40 meters since that time with a very good signal.

This was an activity of the Country Cousins and a most enjoyable one. Ted and I had a great time working together and we both agree that nowhere can a finer couple be found than Mr. and Mrs. Russell. Hope everyone on 40 meters will give a listen for Nelson and give him a call.

Robby Terry WA4BYV  
Bradenton, Fla.

## RA RA FOR HAM RADIO

(Continued from Page 1)

kept the world informed of Heyerdahl's progress... it has relayed weather information and kept maritime authorities informed of Ra's position as heavy seas threatened the unusual craft... It has handled the exchange of messages between Heyerdahl, President Nixon and the United Nations' U Thant... It has constantly been there with encouragement and advice - even as to how to repair Ra's small radio set should failure develop. It has given Ra's crew the comfort that someone is listening.

As the motor yacht Shenandoah sailed from the West Indies to join Ra some 700 miles east of the Barbados this week, amateur radio operators relayed communications between the two vessels, striving to assure a successful rendezvous on an ocean tossed by 20-foot waves.

Coordinating the ham radio activities is Richard W. Ehrhorn W4ETO, an avid amateur and general manager of the Signal/One Division of Electronic Communications, Inc., here. His company prepared and donated the special radio set aboard the Ra.

"Only once since the start of the voyage have we been unsuccessful in establishing communications," said Ehrhorn, who talks with Ra from his station in Seminole, Fla.

Dramatic highlights have been many. Such as the exchange early this week when Ra was taking a battering from heavy seas. Ehrhorn and Norman Baker, navigator/radioman on the craft, were discussing details of Ra's forthcoming rendezvous with Shenandoah when Baker interrupted as a mammoth wave struck the Ra:

"We're losing our yardarm... there it goes... It looks like we may lose the mast, and the antenna with it."

It turned out that Ra didn't lose her mast, but Ehrhorn quickly instructed Baker on rigging an emergency antenna should the need develop.

Backing up Ehrhorn from their own ham stations have been Robert James and A. L. (Ink) Bowen of Clearwater. Other hams around the world have taken part in the drama.

A highlight for W4ETO was an exchange of messages between Heyerdahl and President Nixon. Hams overseas handled a similar exchange between Heyerdahl and the heads of

## THE QFN BULLETIN

By Regis K. Kramer W4LLE

The QFN Bulletin has been issued monthly since February 1967 - 31 months!

The bulletin is a composite informational sheet for our three ALL FLORIDACW NETS, they are, the Novice Hurricane Net, Gator Net and of course WFN. Since WFN furnishes liaison to the Regional and Area nets we keep you informed regarding these NTS functions.

Statistical info includes a list of active stations, their names and QTH along with their QNI activity. Recognition of top QNI, Regional Rep performance and NCS are featured. Roster assignments are published each month. We have a WHO's WHO column. Current net topics are discussed. Net Managers submit a monthly report to their members by way of the QFN Bulletin. Through the courtesy of the Florida RMs, information sheets to new and prospective members are distributed.

We feel the Bulletin has "proven itself" - YOU WANT IT!

From time to time however we do run into financial difficulties. Since the Bulletin is primarily an enhancement of the traffic handling phase of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps - QFN, GN and NRN participation being strictly voluntary - AND since we have no subscription fees or advertisers - we rely entirely on your contributions!

In the past, financially, we have just managed to keep our heads above water.

Printing costs for a two page edition of \$4.00 (100 copies), plus postage of up to \$6.00 and you can readily see "where the money goes". Therefore we are asking for YOUR SUPPORT and YOUR IDEAS regarding distribution of future bulletins. What ground rules should we use to restrict our mailing list - if any? We would like to hear from you - at your earliest convenience.

states of nations represented by other crewmen. Each of the seven-man crew is of a different nationality.

All communications have utilized single sideband in the amateur 20 meter band. Ra's radio transmits at a power level of approximately 60 watts. Ehrhorn's station, centered around the Model CX7 produced by his Signal/One division, radiates the maximum allowable legal power of 1000 watts.

### COMING EVENTS

Each month SKIP hopes to print all upcoming events statewide. Have you sent in yours?

Sept. 13	Platinum
	First IRS
	Hunted
Oct. 12	Tampa
	Hunted